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ABSTRACT

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has developed a home page on the Internet that allows users instant access to current NAEP publications and linkages to data from sources within and outside of the U.S. government. The home page features the following "buttons": (1) information on the NAEP; (2) NAEP activities, a listing of survey cycles and information on meetings and other activities; (3) information on the National Assessment Governing Board; (4) information on the National Center for Education Statistics and its surveys; and (5) access to information on activities of the U.S. Department of Education. (SLD)

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NAEP on the Net
http://www.ed.gov/NCES/naep/

The Internet is the latest phase in the Information Revolution. New software makes it easy for anyone with a recent-model personal computer to access enormous amounts of information. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has developed a homepage on the Internet that allows users instant access to current NAEP publications, as well as linkages to additional data from sources within and outside the U.S. government. The visually impaired can access this web site with a text-only browser such as Lynx, which does not require a recent-model personal computer.

The NAEP Homepage can be accessed most directly through use of the NAEP web address: http://www.ed.gov/NCES/naep/. It provides a listing of current NAEP publications that can be read directly online or downloaded to users' computers. In addition, the homepage features the following "buttons":

NAEP

Information on NAEP. This includes an overview of NAEP, a discussion of its design and its components, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about NAEP.

Current Activities

NAEP Activities. This option gives 1) a comprehensive listing of all NAEP assessment cycles, going back to 1969; 2) a selected listing of released items from current assessment cycles, which can be ordered through the NAEP homepage; 3) forthcoming releases; 4) information on special NAEP studies; and 5) a calendar of upcoming NAEP meetings and workshops.

NAGB

The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB). NAGB is the policy-making body for NAEP. This button provides information on NAGB, a calendar of events, and a list of NAGB publications.

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The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). NCES administers 20 surveys, of which NAEP is one, covering elementary, secondary and postsecondary education, longitudinal surveys, assessment, libraries, international comparisons, and school district data. Information on all of these surveys can be accessed through this button, along with ordering information.

The U.S. Department of Education. The homepage of the U.S. Department of Education provides access to information on all of the department's activities. Many Internet services have cited the department's homepage as a model for government agencies.

The NAEP Homepage also allows users to read or download the latest NAEP publications. Reports on the 1994 NAEP assessments for reading, geography, and U.S. history are currently available. Users can read the smaller reports online, and employ the Adobe Acrobat Reader to download and save the larger reports as PDF files for viewing and printing. The Acrobat Reader can itself be downloaded free of charge from Adobe's web site at http://www.adobe.com/acrobat/readstep.html. Text from PDF files can be transferred into word processing programs like Word for Windows 95. However, many formatting commands, particularly those for tables, will not carry over. In particular, users wishing to work with data from the Data Almanacs would be well advised to obtain CD-ROM versions of this material. Tables from the CD-ROM versions can be copied into word processing programs without loss of formatting.

Individuals or organizations that are not already accessing the Internet can obtain information from national or local Internet service providers.

The *Focus on NAEP* series briefly summarizes information about the ongoing development and implementation of the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The series is a product of NCES, *Gary W. Phillips*, Associate Commissioner for Education Assessment. This issue was written by *Bob Clemons* from NCES and *Alan Vanneman* from Education Statistics Services Institute, in support of NCES. Readers are invited to comment by contacting Bob Clemons at NCES, Assessment Group, 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20208–5653. To order NAEP publications and to obtain NAEP CD-ROMs, contact Bob Clemons at 202–219–1690, or Email bob_clemons@ed.gov.

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